



PATENTS  
293/053

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul J. Hindrichs et al.  
Application No.: 10/678,403 Confirmation No.: 1004  
Filed : October 3, 2003  
For : SELF-EXPANDING EXTERIOR CONNECTORS FOR  
CREATING ANASTOMOSES TO SMALL-DIAMETER  
VESSELS AND METHODS OF USE  
Group Art Unit : 3743

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, applicants hereby make the following references of record in the above-identified patent application:

United States Patent Documents:

Goldsteen et al., Patent No. 5,976,178 (11/02/1999)  
Peterson et al., Patent No. 6,152,937 (11/28/2000)  
Vargas et al., Patent No. 6,428,550 (08/06/2002)  
Swanson et al., Patent No. 6,602,263 (08/05/2003)  
Logan et al., Patent No. 6,699,256 (03/02/2004)  
Swanson et al., Publication No. 2002/0022853-A1 (02/21/2002)  
Swanson et al., Publication No. 2002/0183769-A1 (12/05/2002)

Foreign Patent Documents:

PCT, Publication No. WO 01/39672 (06/07/2001)  
PCT, Publication No. WO 02/096297 (12/05/2002)

Copies of the aforementioned references, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (submitted in duplicate), are enclosed herewith.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

It is respectfully requested that these patents be (1) fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during examination of this application; and (2) printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants request that a copy of Form PTO-1449, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next communication.

This Statement is submitted more than three months from the application filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, submission of this Statement requires no fee. However, if for any reason a fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this letter is transmitted herewith.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

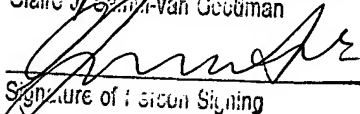
Respectfully submitted,

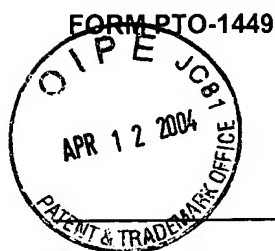


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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEINFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANTATTY. DOCKET NO.  
293/053APPLICATION NO.  
10/678,403APPLICANT  
Paul J. Hindrichs et al.CONFIRMATION NO.  
1004FILING DATE  
October 3, 2003GROUP ART UNIT  
3743

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,976,178	11/02/1999	Goldsteen et al.	623	1	
	6,152,937	11/28/2000	Peterson et al.	606	153	
	6,428,550	08/06/2002	Vargas et al.	606	153	
	6,602,263	08/05/2003	Swanson et al.	606	153	
	6,699,256	03/02/2004	Logan et al.	606	153	06/02/2000
	2002/0022853-A1	02/21/2002	Swanson et al.	606	155	
	2002/0183769-A1	12/05/2002	Swanson et al.	606	153	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	WO 01/39672	06/07/2001	PCT	A61B	17/115		
	WO 02/096297	12/05/2002	PCT	A61B	17/11		

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER INITIAL	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.